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AND PASS USTR/PA; USINCEUR FOR PAO; NATO/PA; MOSCOW/PA;  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - WWII COMMEMORATIONS -  
PRESIDENT BUSH TO EUROPE - RUSSIA  
PARIS - MONDAY, MAY 09, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

WWII COMMEMORATIONS - PRESIDENT BUSH TO EUROPE - RUSSIA

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

CELEBRATIONS COMMEMORATING THE END OF WORLD WAR II AND  
PRESIDENT BUSH'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CEREMONIES ARE TODAY'S  
MAJOR FRONT-PAGE STORIES, WITH SLIGHT VARIATIONS IN HEADLINES  
AND EDITORIAL COMMENTARIES. THE MOST RECURRENT THEME IS THE  
TENSION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW, AS ILLUSTRATED IN  
LIBERATION'S HEADLINE: "A TENSE ANNIVERSARY" WHILE LE FIGARO  
TITLES: "BUSH ON A CRUSADE FOR DEMOCRACY ON PUTIN'S TURF." FOR  
POPULAR FRANCE SOIR, "BUSH RAINED ON PUTIN'S PARADE."  
EDITORIALIST THOMAS DE ROCHECHOUART SUGGESTS THAT "MAY 8 2005  
OPENS THE DOOR TO A PERIOD OF GLACIAL PEACE BETWEEN WASHINGTON  
AND MOSCOW, JUST LIKE YALTA MARKED THE START OF THE COLD WAR."  
BUT IN HIS EDITORIAL IN LE FIGARO PIERRE ROUSSELIN REMEMBERS  
RUSSIA'S FORMER GRANDEUR AND REMINDS THE U.S. AND EUROPE TO  
HELP THE KREMLIN "BET ON DEMOCRACY, INSIDE AND ABROAD." IN HER  
EDITORIAL IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX, DOMINIQUE QUINIO EXPLAINS  
PUTIN'S "TASTE FOR MISPLACED NOSTALGIA" AND THE RUSSIAN  
PEOPLE'S "PATRIOTIC PRIDE" WITH "THEIR LOSS OF PAST GRANDEUR."  
QUINIO, LIKE ROUSSELIN REMIND THE READER ABOUT THE 27 MILLION  
RUSSIANS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES TO FREE EUROPE FROM THE NAZIS.  
IN REGIONAL LES DERNIERES NOUVELLES D'ALSACE, JEAN-CLAUDE  
KIEFFER ECHOES THEIR REMINDER WITH AN EDITORIAL TITLED:  
"VICTORY WITHOUT RUSSIA?" POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE PARISIEN  
NOTES THAT PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S APPROACH TO PUTIN DIFFERS FROM  
PRESIDENT BUSH: "PRESIDENT CHIRAC HAS CHOSEN TO PUT THE  
EMPHASIS ON FRANCO-RUSSIAN FRIENDSHIP AND AVOID ANY FORM OF  
REPROACH AGAINST HIS 'RUSSIAN' FRIEND.'" (SEE PART C)

SATURDAY'S LE FIGARO CARRIES AN OP-ED BY VLADIMIR PUTIN  
TITLED: "LESSONS LEARNED FROM A VICTORY OVER NAZISM." PUTIN  
WRITES: "I AM CONVINCED THAT A UNITED GREATER EUROPE, FROM THE  
SHORES OF THE ATLANTIC TO THE URAL - IN OTHER WORDS TO THE  
PACIFIC - REPRESENTS AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL PEOPLE  
ON THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT. TO MAKE POSSIBLE THIS FUTURE OF  
PEACE. THE EUROPEANS CAN COUNT ON RUSSIA JUST AS THEY COUNTED  
ON RUSSIA TO FIGHT NAZISM."

EUROPE AND THE REFERENDUM IS TODAY'S SECOND MAJOR STORY. FOR  
LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION "THE EU IS THE SYMBOL, THE  
INSTRUMENT AND THE POLITICAL GUARANTEE FOR PEACE...THE EU IS A  
RAMPART AGAINST THE RETURN OF NATIONALISMS WHICH, AS PRESIDENT  
MITTERAND SAID, 'CARRY IN THEM WAR JUST AS THE DARK CLOUD  
CARRIES A STORM.'"

FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO PARIS FELIX ROHATYN CONTRIBUTES AN  
OP-ED TO LES ECHOS TITLED: "A 'YES' FROM AMERICA." IN HIS  
APPEAL FOR THE EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION, ROHATYN EXPLAINS THAT A  
'NO' VOTE WOULD DISSUADE FOREIGN INVESTMENT. THIS IN TURN  
"WOULD IMPACT NEGATIVELY ON FRANCE'S ECONOMIC GROWTH. I  
SINCERELY HOPE THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE WILL VOTE 'YES'. I REALIZE  
THIS MAY NOT BE VERY DIPLOMATIC ON MY PART, BUT THE QUESTION  
IS TOO SERIOUS FOR ME TO KEEP QUIET."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

WWII COMMEMORATIONS - PRESIDENT BUSH TO EUROPE - RUSSIA

"RUSSIA'S GRANDEUR"

PIERRE ROUSSELIN IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (05/09): "THE  
VISIT OF PRESIDENT BUSH TO MOSCOW. IS TAKING PLACE IN A TENSE  
ATMOSPHERE. THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT FIRST CHOSE TO VISIT THE  
BALTICS, AT THE RISK OF ALIENATING PUTIN. GERMANY HAS  
RECOGNIZED ITS CRIMES, JUST AS JAPAN HAS NEWLY DONE VIS-A-VIS  
THE CHINESE. WHY DOES RUSSIA HAVE SUCH A PROBLEM IN  
DENOUNCING THE REIGN OF STALIN? IN PRESENTING THE 25TH OF  
APRIL, THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE USSR, AS 'THE  
GREATEST GEOPOLITICAL CATASTROPHE OF THE CENTURY,' VLADIMIR  
PUTIN SHOWED THE EXTENT OF HIS NOSTALGIA. PRESIDENT BUSH  
HERALDED ALL OF THESE CONCERNS WHEN HE SPOKE IN RIGA. FOR THE  
KREMLIN, THE CALL TO ORDER IS SERIOUS. IT IS IN LINE WITH THE  
U.S. PRESIDENT'S CRUSADE FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE WORLD, IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST, BUT ALSO IN GEORGIA, UKRAINE AND CENTRAL ASIA."

BELARUS ILLUSTRATES WASHINGTON'S DEMOCRATIC OFFENSIVE. BECAUSE RUSSIA IS NOT JUST ANY OTHER NATION, BECAUSE IT IS A NUCLEAR POWER, BECAUSE IT IS A PRIVILEGED AND STRATEGIC PARTNER OF THE U.S., IT IS IMPORTANT FOR IT NOT TO FEEL TRAPPED. IT'S UP TO OUR LEADERS TO MAKE THE KREMLIN'S CHIEF UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS IN HIS OWN INTEREST. TO BET ON INTERNAL DEMOCRACY, AND ON DEMOCRACY OUTSIDE HIS BORDERS. THIS IS HOW RUSSIA WILL REGAIN ITS LOST GRANDEUR."

"SEPARATE MEMORIES"

DOMINIQUE QUINIO IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX (05/09): "THE CEREMONIES BEING CELEBRATED IN MOSCOW ARE THERE TO SHOW WHAT THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT OWES THE SOLDIERS OF THE RED ARMY AND THE 27 MILLION RUSSIAN CASUALTIES. THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT AND HIS WEEKEND HOSTS REMINDED EVERYONE THAT SIXTY YEARS AGO HALF OF EUROPE WAS FREED FROM TOTALITARIANISM WHILE THE OTHER HALF WAS NOT. PERHAPS RUSSIAN PATRIOTIC PRIDE, WHICH IS MIXED UP WITH A MISPLACED NOSTALGIA, IS DUE TO THE NATION'S FRUSTRATION IN HAVING LOST ITS GRANDEUR AND THE UNDER-ESTIMATION, BY HISTORY AND BY THE WEST, OF THE SACRIFICE OF THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE. JUSTICE MUST BE RENDERED TO IT. HERE AND ELSEWHERE, A RIGOROUS STUDY OF HISTORY IS IN ORDER SO THAT LIES AND DENIALS DO NOT LEAD TO HUMILIATION OR TO HATE. WARS ARE PERVERSE, AND RENDER EVEN PEACE PAINFUL OR AT LEAST INCOMPLETE."

"VICTORY WITHOUT RUSSIANS.?"

JEAN-CLAUDE KIEFER REGIONAL LES DERNIERES NOUVELLES D'ALSACE: (05/09): "MEMORY IS SELECTIVE. IN THE UNITED STATES, TOO, THEY KNOW HOW TO INTERPRET HISTORY. YES, THE AMERICANS LIBERATED WESTERN EUROPE FROM NAZISM. NO, THEY DID NOT WIN THE WAR ALONE, AS SUCCESSIVE PRESIDENTS IN WASHINGTON WOULD SUGGEST, REINFORCED BY HUNDREDS OF HOLLYWOOD FILMS. THE CREDIT FOR VICTORY BELONGS FIRST TO CHURCHILL'S GREAT BRITAIN WHICH RESISTED ALONE FOR TWO YEARS. THIS CREDIT GOES, TOO, TO THE SOVIET UNION. A TROUBLING VICTOR (WHO) REPLACED ONE YOKE WITH ANOTHER. STILL, ITS ROLE WAS PRIMORDIAL. WHEREVER ONE GOES (IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION) THERE ARE ONLY VERDUNS. SEEING THOSE INFINITE BATTLEFIELDS ONE UNDERSTANDS THAT 'THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR' UNITED THE USSR WITH BLOOD AND STILL UNITES RUSSIA. THE AMBIGUITIES (OF WAR) ARE REAL. BUT IT WAS NOT UP TO PRESIDENT BUSH TO REMIND VLADIMIR PUTIN, FROM RIGA, ABOUT THEM IN REMARKS WORTHY OF THE 'COLD WAR.' TENSIONS WITH MOSCOW ARE USELESS. EVEN IF IT MEANS CONTROLLING, FROM GEORGIA, CASPIAN SEA OIL."

"FOR PUTIN, OPERATION SEDUCTION"

VERONIQUE SOULE IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (05/09): "RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW ARE NOW BASED ON REALISM TINGED WITH CYNICISM, WITH EACH ACKNOWLEDGING IT NEEDS THE OTHER. BOTH PARTNERS REMAIN 'STRATEGIC PARTNERS.' BUT PRESIDENT BUSH WILL NOT MAKE IT EASY FOR PUTIN, CONVINCED AS HE IS ABOUT HIS WORLD MISSION FOR DEMOCRACY, AND IN PARTICULAR IN FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS. HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW, WHICH WAS PRECEDED BY A VISIT TO LATVIA AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY ONE TO GEORGIA, IS THE PERFECT ILLUSTRATION."

"BUSH'S THREE SLIGHTS TO PUTIN"

THOMAS DE ROCHECHOUART IN POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER FRANCE SOIR (05/09): "MAY 8, 1945 MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE COLD WAR BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION. MAY 8, 2005 SEEMS TO BE OPENING AN ERA OF GLACIAL PEACE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW. AS PUTIN PUT TOGETHER A CEREMONY THAT WAS MEANT TO REAFFIRM RUSSIA'S NEWLY-FOUND POWER, PRESIDENT BUSH BUILT HIS OWN READY-MADE PROGRAM TO HUMILIATE THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENT. HE WAS CAREFUL TO BRING HIS SUPPORT TO THE KREMLIN'S ADVERSARIES DURING HIS VISIT TO LATVIA. HE ALSO CALLED FOR FREE ELECTIONS IN BELARUS. AND WILL VISIT GEORGIA WHERE HE WILL PROMOTE FREEDOM." WOLFF